

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA:WHGLEYSTEEEN,JR.:AVM

APPROVED BY EA:AWHUMMEL, JR.

S/P - MR. LORD

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 182065 TOSEC 190067

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CH, TW, MARR, MPOL, (GELB, LESLIE)

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM - FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS ON PRC'S

HARD LINE ON TAIWAN "LIBERATION"(S/S NO.7615747)

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM EA - ARTHUR W.HUMMEL, JR.

1. SUBSEQUENT TO MYJULY21 MEMORANDUM TO YOU, WE HAVE PICKED UP SOME MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PRCLO COUNSELOR HSIEH'S CONVERSATION WITH GELB, MARDER, OBERDORFER, AND KARNOW, IN WHICH HSIEH INSISTED THAT THE ONLY WAY CHINA CAN "LIBERATE" TAIWAN IS THROUGH MILITARY FORCE.

2. ALTHOUGH THE STORY HAS NOT YET APPEARED IN ANY PAPER, THE CORRESPONDENTS HAVE SPREAD THE WORD QUITE UIDELY WITHIN GOVERNMENT CIRCLES, SPECIFICALLY INCLUDING STATE, DEFENSE, AND CIA, AND THEY HAVE ADDED SOME MORE DETAILS. THEY HAVE INFORMED US THAT HSIEH, WHEN PRESSED, CLAIMED THAT THE PRC POSITION HAS ALWAYS BEEN THAT TAIWAN'S

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LIBERATION WOULD HAVE TO BE BY MILITARY MEANS. IN RESPONSE

TO A QUESTION DURING A FOLLOW-ON CONVERSATION, HSIEH SAID THAT HE "PRESUMED" THE PRC POSITION ON MILITARY LIBERATION HAD BEEN CONVEYED TO THE USG.

3. GELB IS CONVINCED THAT HSIEH'S TRANSPARENT PURPOSE WAS TO CONVEY THE MESSAGE ON MILITARY LIBERATION. HE TOLD US THAT AFTER THE INITIAL CONVERSATION, HE TELEPHONED

HSIEH SAYING HE FOUND HIS COMMENTS ON TAIWAN INTERESTING AND WISHED TO PUBLISH THEM. HSIEH REPORTEDLY REPLIED, "I THOUGHT YOU WOULD" AND READILY AGREED TO PUBLICATION IF GELB WOULD NOT IDENTIFY OFFICIAL CHINESE AS THE SOURCE.

4. GELB EXPLAINED TO US THAT HE WAS GOING TO PUBLISH THE STORY USING A LEAD-IN THAT "ADMINISTRATION SOURCES HAVE LEARNED THAT..." AFTER WE PROTESTED THAT THIS WOULD BE MISLEADING AND MOST UNHELPFUL, HE PROMISED TO DROP ANY REFERENCE TO THE ADMINISTRATION. HE IS STILL HAVING TROUBLE SOURCING HIS STORY AND WE PRESUME THIS IS THE REASON IT HAS NOT APPEARED IN THE TIMES. IF GELB STICKS WITH HIS INITIAL ANALYSIS, HIS STORY WILL BE RELATIVELY STRAIGHTFORWARD AND SHORT OF SENSATIONAL. WE PRESUME POST WILL ALSO CARRY STORY AT SOME POINT.

5. RECOMMENDATION:

WE RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE IN THE LIKELY EVENT THAT THE STORY BREAKS:

A) (IF ASKED ABOUT OUR VIEWS ON MILITARY LIBERATION OF TAIWAN) "OUR VIEWS ON THE SETTLEMENT OF THE TAIWAN QUESTION AND NORMALIZATION OF US/PRC RELATIONS WERE SET OUT IN THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE, AND THE SECRETARY STATED IN SEATTLE ON JULY 22 THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO BE GUIDED BY THE PRINCIPLES OF THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE."

B) (IF ASKED IF HSIEH'S FORMULATION HAS BEEN CONVEYED TO THE USG) "AS A STANDARD PRACTICE WE DO NOT DISCLOSE THE NATURE OF OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH THE CHINESE."

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APPROVE DISAPPROVE

DRAFTED:EA:WHGLEYSTEN,JR.

CLEARED BY: P - MR. HABIB, S/P - MR. LORD, AND
S/PRS - MR.BROWN ; S - HCOLLUMS

ROBINSON

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